

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 SCS-06
L-03 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 PER-01 SY-05 /064 W
-----046634 171729Z /50
R 171452Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0554
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, UR, US, OTRA, CSCE
SUBJECT: EMBASSY TRAVEL - MARCH 1978

REF: (A) MOSCOW 4027, (B) MOSCOW 3390, (C) MOSCOW 4167,
(D) MOSCOW 5021, (E) STATE 68650, (F) STATE 70636,
(G) STATE 78059, (H) STATE 96297

SUMMARY: MARCH WAS ANOTHER ROUGH MONTH FOR EMBASSY TRAVEL PROGRAM AS MFA CONTINUED TO DENY EMBOFFS PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO NEWLY-OPENED AREAS, WITH FIVE CASES IN WHICH EMBASSY TRIPS WERE EITHER REFUSED OR ALTERED. EMBOFFS ALSO ENCOU HERED NUMEROUS UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS IN MAKING ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIPS AND THERE WAS ONE CASE OF AN EXIT POINT EXCEPTION REFUSAL. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON RETALIATION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY TRAVEL STATISTICS FOR MARCH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REQUESTS: 44
DESTINATIONS: 93
TRAVELERS: 79
SELF-CANCELLED: 0
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REFUSED/ALTERED: 5
EXCEPTIONS GRANTED: 4

2. ON MARCH 2 MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER VACHNADZE INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER THAT REQUEST FOR MARCH 7 TRIP TO DARVAZA, SERNNY ZAVOD AND YERBENT BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL JOHN AND NILSA MAYSA WAS REFUSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY

NATURE" (ROTN) (REF B).

3. ON MARCH 9 VACHNADZE INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER THAT REQUEST FOR 24-HOUR EXCEPTION FOR TRAVEL BY ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHER VIRGINIA CONDIT AND GUEST TO LENINGRAD MARCH 9-11 WAS DENIED. CONDIT HAD FIRST FILED NOTE ON MORNING OF MARCH 7, BUT WAS INFORMED BY MFA (THROUGH TRAVEL OFFICER) THAT SHE HAD TO ASK FOR EXCEPTION TO 24-HOUR RULE SINCE MARCH 8 WAS SOVIET HOLIDAY. ACCORDINGLY, NOTE WAS RUSHED TO MFA PROTOCOL DUTY OFFICER ON EVENING OF MARCH 7, BUT ON MARCH 9 EXCEPTION REQUEST WAS DENIED ANYWAY.

4. ON MARCH 10 VACHNADZE INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER THAT REQUEST FOR MARCH 16-17 VISITS TO NUKUS AND TAKHIATASH BY EMBOFFS O'HARE AND SPEER WAS REFUSED FOR ROTN (REF C).

5. ON MARCH 10 MFA INFORMED MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SECTION IN EMBASSY THAT REQUEST FOR ENTRY/EXIT-POINT EXCEPTION FOR EMBOFF STARBIRD AND FAMILY TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM ROMANIA BY TRAIN WAS REFUSED. STARBIRD HAD ORIGINALLY SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MFA ON FEBRUARY 27 WHICH REQUESTED ENTRY/EXIT EXCEPTION FOR UNGENY AND VADUL-SIRET. STARBIRD FAMILY EVENTUALLY MADE TRIP TO ROMANIA BY PLANE AT DOUBLE THE COST.

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6. ON MARCH 16 VACHNADZE INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER THAT REQUEST FOR MARCH 19 VISIT TO KRASNOYE-NA-VOLGE AND PLES BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL CAROL AND LEROY KRSIEAN WAS REFUSED FOR ROTN (REF D).

7. ON MARCH 25 MFA PROTOCOL DUTY OFFICER MARTINOV INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER THAT REQUEST FOR 48-HOUR EXCEPTION FOR TRAVEL BY EMBOFF JOHN KATZKA TO GOMEL ON MARCH 25 WAS DENIED BECAUSE "NOTE WAS RECEIVED IN MFA AFTER 1600 ON DAY OF TRAVEL." KATZKA HAD AT FIRST INTENDED TO TRAVEL TO GOMEL ON MARCH 24 TO REVIEW WEEKEND PRO-ARTE CONCERTS. HIS ORIGINAL 48-HOUR EXCEPTION REQUEST TO TRAVEL TO GOMEL ON MARCH 24 WAS ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, KATZKA WAS THEN UNABLE TO GET TICKETS ON FULLY-BOOKED NIGHT TRAIN. ON SATURDAY MORNING, KATZKA EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF FLYING TO GOMEL, BUT AEROFLOT TOLD HIM HE COULD NOT BUY AIR TICKETS SINCE MOSCOW-GOMEL FLIGHT DEPARTS FROM BYKOVO AIRPORT, WHICH IS IN A CLOSED AREA. IN DESPERATION, KATZKA PHONED TRAVEL OFFICER, WHO CONTACTED MARTINOV AT MFA. NEW NOTE WITH EXCEPTION REQUEST WAS DELIVERED TO MFA "EKSPEDITSIIYA" (MAIL ROOM) BY EMBASSY DRIVER AT 1530, BUT MARTINOV LATER CALLED TRAVEL OFFICER

WITH CLAIM THAT PROTOCOL DID NOT RECEIVE NOTE UNTIL AFTER 1600 AND THEREFORE COULD NOT CONSIDER IT. MARTINOV, WHO SEEMED EAGER TO HELP IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS, WAS OBVIOUSLY OVERRULED BY HIS MORE MISCHIEVOUS SUPERIORS.

8. ON MARCH 25, TDY EMBOFF KAY OLIVER ATTEMPTED TO BUY TRAIN TICKET TO KALININ AT LENINGRAD STATION BUT WAS REFUSED AND TOLD SHE HAD TO "GET A LETTER FROM UPDK." SUBSEQUENT INQUIRIES BY TRAVEL OFFICER LED TO APOLOGY BY DIRECTRESS OF LENINGRAD STATION, WHO AGREED THAT OLIVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO BUY TICKET. DIRECTRESS PROMISED TO BRIEF HER SUBORDINATES, PARTICULARLY INFORMATION BUREAU PERSONNEL, ON THIS POINT.

9. ON MARCH 31 VACHNADZE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT REQUEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION FOR TRAVEL BY EMBOFF PRINGLE TO VILYATINO (ZAKARPATSKAYA OBLAST) WAS REFUSED. POL COUNS BROWN HAD SENT LETTER TO USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV AND OVIR ON MARCH 20 REQUESTING EXCEPTION SO PRINGLE COULD ASSIST AMCIT CHARLES PUKA IN FORMULATING EXIT DOCUMENTS (REF H). VACHNADZE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CONSULAR REASON FOR PRINGLE TO GO, SINCE SOVIETS HAD ALREADY ASSISTED PUKA WITH DOCUMENTS. TO DATE, THERE IS STILL NO EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS HAVE

DONE SO, AND PUKA REMAINS STRANDED IN VILYATINO.

10. EMBASSY APPRECIATES SWIFT RETALIATIONS CITED IN
REFS E, F AND G, AND RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON
RETALIATION, WHERE FEASIBLE, FOR REMAINING CASES DIS-
CUSSED THIS MESSAGE. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DATA, TRAVEL CONTROLS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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